

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-44. (cancelled)

45. (previously presented) A machine-implemented method, comprising the steps of:  
a service requestor using an Internet Protocol (IP) address to address requests to a  
service provided by a first node within a cluster, wherein said first node is  
configured to provide said service to requests addressed to said IP address;  
in response to said first node becoming unavailable, automatically configuring a  
second node of the cluster to respond to requests addressed to said IP address;  
after said first node becomes unavailable, the service requestor using said IP address  
to address a message to said cluster related to said service; and  
in response to said message, said second node of the cluster sending a response that  
indicates an error condition.

46. (previously presented) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the steps of:  
upon receiving said response, the service requestor identifying a second IP address to  
access said service; and  
the service requestor using said second IP address to address a second message to said  
cluster related to said service.

47. (currently amended) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the step of:  
storing, at the first node, information identifying one or more nodes of the cluster as  
being standby nodes, wherein each of the one or more standby nodes ~~may be~~  
~~instructed~~ is configured to provide the service in response to being instructed

to provide the service if the first node becomes unavailable.

48. (previously presented) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the step of:  
in response to said first node becoming unavailable, determining if said first node is  
configured to allow the service to be provided by another node of the cluster.
49. (previously presented) The method of Claim 48, further comprising the step of:  
in response to determining said first node is configured to allow the service to be  
provided by another node of the cluster, determining a standby node of the  
cluster to perform the service; and  
instructing the standby node to perform the service.
50. (currently amended) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the steps of:  
in response to said first node becoming unavailable, instructing a standby node of the  
cluster to perform the service;  
determining [[if]] whether another node of the cluster is capable of providing the  
plurality of services provided by the standby node ~~may be provided by another~~  
~~node of the cluster~~; and  
if another node of the cluster is not capable of providing the plurality of services  
provided by the standby node ~~may not be provided by another node of the~~  
~~cluster~~, then configuring the standby node to disallow the plurality of services  
to be provided by another node of the cluster.

51. (previously presented) The method of Claim 50, further comprising the step of:  
in response to configuring the standby node to disallow the plurality of services to be  
provided by another node of the cluster, issuing an alert to a user.
52. (previously presented) The method of Claim 45, wherein said first node comprises a  
monitor process, and wherein said monitor process is configured to detect if said first  
node becoming unavailable.
53. (currently amended) A ~~[[machine]]~~computer-readable storage medium carrying one  
or more sequences of instructions, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of  
instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform  
the steps of, ~~comprising the steps of:~~  
a service requestor using an Internet Protocol (IP) address to address requests to a  
service provided by a first node within a cluster, wherein said first node is  
configured to provide said service to requests addressed to said IP address;  
in response to said first node becoming unavailable, automatically configuring a  
second node of the cluster to respond to requests addressed to said IP address;  
after said first node becomes unavailable, the service requestor using said IP address  
to address a message to said cluster related to said service; and  
in response to said message, said second node of the cluster sending a response that  
indicates an error condition.

54. (currently amended) The ~~[[machine]]~~computer-readable storage medium of Claim 53, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:  
upon receiving said response, the service requestor identifying a second IP address to  
access said service; and  
the service requestor using said second IP address to address a second message to said  
cluster related to said service.
55. (currently amended) The ~~[[machine]]~~computer-readable storage medium of Claim 53, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the step of:  
storing, at the first node, information identifying one or more nodes of the cluster as  
being standby nodes, wherein each of the one or more standby nodes ~~may be~~  
~~instructed~~ is configured to provide the service in response to being instructed  
to provide the service if the first node becomes unavailable.
56. (currently amended) The ~~[[machine]]~~computer-readable storage medium of Claim 53, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the step of:  
in response to said first node becoming unavailable, determining if said first node is  
configured to allow the service to be provided by another node of the cluster.
57. (currently amended) The ~~[[machine]]~~computer-readable storage medium of Claim 56, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or

more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the step of:  
in response to determining said first node is configured to allow the service to be  
provided by another node of the cluster, determining a standby node of the  
cluster to perform the service; and  
instructing the standby node to perform the service.

58. (currently amended) The ~~[[machine]]~~computer-readable storage medium of Claim 53, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:  
in response to said first node becoming unavailable, instructing a standby node of the cluster to perform the service;  
determining ~~[[if]]~~ whether another node of the cluster is capable of providing the plurality of services provided by the standby node ~~may be provided by another node of the cluster~~; and  
if another node of the cluster is not capable of providing the plurality of services provided by the standby node ~~may not be provided by another node of the cluster~~, then configuring the standby node to disallow the plurality of services to be provided by another node of the cluster.

59. (currently amended) The ~~[[machine]]~~computer-readable storage medium of Claim 58, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the step of:  
in response to configuring the standby node to disallow the plurality of services to be provided by another node of the cluster, issuing an alert to a user.

60. (currently amended) The [[machine]]computer-readable storage medium of Claim 53, wherein said first node comprises a monitor process, and wherein said monitor process is configured to detect if said first node becoming unavailable.